(b) The Indo-German "bilateral trade during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as follows:

(in Rs. Crores)

Year	India's exports To Germany	India's imports from Germany	Total trade
1999-00	7510.31	7979.95	15490.26
2000-01	8658.21	7928.41	16586.62

Data source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Further, India's exports to Germany and imports from Germany during the first two months of the current financial year (April-May 2001), was of the order of Rs. 1,264 crores and Rs. 1,416 crores respectively.

(c) During the period April 2000—February 2001, the Indian exports to Germany improved by 13.79% in rupee terms as against a growth of 27.48% in rupee terms in respect of India's global exports.

(d) The steps being taken by Government to improve the Indo-German bilateral trade include constant interaction with the European Union in order to address the different India-EU trade issues, facilities for participation in trade fairs, input for upgradation of quality, market study and facilitating trade/industry level interaction.

Revival of Indian Tea Industry

3075. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea industry in Assam is passing through a difficult time because of low prices, cheap tea imports from other countries and stiff competition from beverages;

(b) whether Indian tea in other countries is being substituted by other varieties of tea; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to help tea industry to come out of this rough patch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The tea industry in India including Assam is facing problem of low prices and high cost of production. The industry is also facing competition from other beverages. However, the annual average price of Assam tea has remained higher than the all India average and the North India average price of tea since 1998. During the period January to June 2001 average price of Assam tea was Rs. 76.34 per Kg. compared to Rs. 64.32 (all India) and Rs. 76.23 (North India average). As regards cheap tea imports from other countries, import of tea during 2000-01 was 15.22 mn. Kgs. against total production of 848.36 mn. Kgs. Import of tea being just about 1.7% of country's total production, is unlikely to have any adverse effect on the domestic tea industry including Assam. Moreover, 94% of the tea imported during the year 2000 was re-exported after blending with indigenous teas.

(b) and (c) The share of Indian tea in some of the markets abroad suffered during the year 2000-01 due to various factors such as increased domestic demand, competition from other producing countries such as Sri Lanka, Kenya etc. and decline in export to Russia, Germany, USA, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Uzbekistan etc. for reasons which are country specific.

With a view to sustain market share of Indian teas abroad, various steps have been taken by the Govt./Tea Board which include programmes on consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas in select markets, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, media campaigns, exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries, etc.

Govt./Tea Board has received complaints about mislabeling of teas produced by other countries as Indian tea in some markets abroad. With a view to prevent this undesirable practice, the Tea Board has taken steps to register Indian Tea Logo in major importing countries. Tea Board has also launched media campaign in important markets to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol.